



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2010

Contact: Ed Maddox 213-361-6980
James Bolden 213-200-5314

SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS AND KNABE URGE BOARD SUPPORT TO PASS FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO RENEW FLOOD INSURANCE POLICIES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMES

LOS ANGELES — The Board of Supervisors today unanimously supported Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Don Knabe's request to forward a five signature letter to California Senate leaders urging passage of H.R. 5114, the Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act of 2010, during their 2009-10 legislative session.

Stating in their joint motion that over 11,000 properties in Los Angeles County are affected by the decertification of levees at the Dominguez Channel and Compton Creek, Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Knabe asked the Board to send individual letters to U.S. Senators Harry Reid, Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Mitch McConnell and others requesting passage of the legislation authored by Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA).

The issue has been one of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' top priorities in the Second Supervisorial District.

During the Second District Empowerment Congress Summit held at California State University, Dominguez Hills campus in January, the Supervisor and the Empowerment Congress convened officials representing the L.A. County Flood Control District, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and homeowners to discuss a range of issues, including insurance, infrastructure, safety and emergency preparedness.

The Empowerment Congress Summit was one of many efforts over the past 15 months of the Supervisor to address Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Issues in the Second District.

“It is critical that the Empowerment Congress continue to advocate for opportunities to mitigate the flood risk prevalent in many communities throughout Los Angeles County,” said Empowerment Congress leader Joy Atkinson. “Our goal is to inform residents of all the tools in the toolbox that can be used to protect their property and their pocketbooks.”

Last summer, the Supervisor asked the Department of Public Works to address flood control issues related to Compton Creek and to identify opportunities to address the flood protection concerns in Compton Creek and the Dominguez Channel.

H.R. 5114 would authorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and FEMA to enter into and renew flood insurance policies through 2015, and make several changes to the NFIP.

Proposed changes to the NFIP include the following:

- Delaying for five years the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement for properties recently designated as being within a Special Flood Hazard Area;
- Providing temporary discounted premiums for such properties over a five year period;
- Increasing the maximum coverage for structure and contents and requiring FEMA to provide for public outreach regarding flood zone maps and the need for purchasing flood insurance.

“While Los Angeles County is making strides to identify short and long-term solutions to address this flood risk, H.R. 5114 would have a positive fiscal impact on property owners through modifications to the NFIP,” the Supervisors stated in their joint motion.

They added that the County’s Department of Public Works estimates that savings to L.A. County property owners impacted by the decertified levees will be in the millions of dollars.

In their analysis of H.R. 5114, the County’s Chief Executive Officer and DPW have recommended that the County and its legislative advocates support the bill, which on July 15, passed the House floor by a vote of 329 to 90 and currently is in the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs awaiting a hearing.

#